

3-22-2017

## Santa Monica mayor letter support AB 493

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### Recommended Citation

*Santa Monica mayor letter support AB 493* (2017),

Available at: <https://scholarship.law.uci.edu/daca-dapa-subfederal-government-responses/58>

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Mayor **Ted Winterer**  
Mayor Pro Tempore **Gleam Davis**

Councilmembers  
**Sue Himmelrich**  
**Kevin McKeown**  
**Pam O'Connor**  
**Terry O'Day**  
**Tony Vazquez**

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer Sr.  
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
1020 N St., Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 493 (Jones-Sawyer) Crime: victims and witnesses: immigration violations.**  
**City of Santa Monica – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Jones-Sawyer,

On behalf of the City of Santa Monica, I am pleased to write you in **SUPPORT** of your **AB 493 (Jones-Sawyer)**, which would protect from deportation efforts any suspected undocumented immigrant who is a witness to or victim of a crime.

Recent and expected actions at the federal level are likely to deter individuals from engaging with police officers to provide evidence that is potentially helpful to an investigation. **AB 493 (Jones-Sawyer)** will help maintain positive and necessary relationships between law enforcement officers and community members. Specifically, this bill will prohibit a peace officer in California from detaining, reporting or turning over an individual to federal immigration authorities for any actual or suspected immigration violation, when that individual is a victim of or witness to a crime or can otherwise give evidence in a criminal investigation.

Ensuring open communication between California residents and peace officers is in the best interest of the state. **AB 493 (Jones-Sawyer)** will bolster public health and safety by reducing fear among community members and encouraging all Californians to cooperate with law enforcement to assist in criminal investigations, regardless of immigration status.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Monica **SUPPORTS AB 493 (Jones-Sawyer)**. Thank you for authoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Ted Winterer  
Mayor

Cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Joshua W. Shaw, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.